

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09459 210357Z

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 NSC-10 CU-04 IO-13 DRC-01

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R 200810Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8243

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 9459

FOR AGRICULTURE: FAS F&O DIVISION; ERS  
TOKYO FOR AG ATTACHE

FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT FAVORABLE EARLY INDICATIONS FOR PRC SOYBEAN CROP

1. SOYBEAN HARVESTING HAS BEGUN ON SCHEDULE IN NORTHEAST REGION OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WHILE NORTHEAST COMMONLY HAS PROBLEMS OF SPRING DROUGHT AND EARLY FROST, REPORTS OF EXCESSIVE RAINFALL AND WATERLOGGING IN HEILUNGKIANG THIS SPRING APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT SOIL MOISTURE WAS ADEQUATE. HEILUNGKIANG ALSO CLAIMED SPRING SOWING CARRIED OUT ON SCHEDULE. THESE CONDITIONS BELIEVED ALSO TO APPLY TO KIRIN AND LIAONING. AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, THERE HAS BEEN NO OCCURRENCE OF FROST IN MAJOR SOYBEAN-GROWING AREAS OF NORTHEAST (HEILUNGKIANG AND KIRIN). BASIC CONDITIONS, THEREFORE, APPEAR MORE FAVORABLE THAN LAST YEAR THIS TIME.

2. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, AFP REPORT IN SEPT 14 TA KUNG  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 09459 210357Z

PAO (HK EDITION) CLAIMS THAT LIU HSIN-WEN, HEAD OF CHINESE

ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO JAPAN, TOLD JAPAN MINAG THAT PRC WOULD INCREASE EXPORTS SOYBEANS (ALSO RAW SILK AND GLUTINOUS RICE) TO JAPAN. JAPANESE REPORTEDLY ALSO REQUESTED CORN FROM PRC.

3. COMMENT: NO QUANTITIES WERE GIVEN IN PRESS, BUT IN LATTER HALF 1960'S (1965-69) JAPAN TOOK 65-75 PERCENT PRC'S SOYBEAN EXPORTS EACH YEAR; I.E., AN AVERAGE OF 390,000 METRIC TONS OUT OF TOTAL ANNUAL EXPORTS AVERAGING 550,000 TONS. (SOURCE: FAO).

4. PRC COMMITMENT TO DELIVER SOYBEANS TO JAPAN (AFTER POOR PERFORMANCE PAST YEAR) IMPLIES OFFICIAL OPTIMISM FOR SOYBEAN CROP IN NORTHEAST WHICH PRODUCES APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD CHINA'S SOYBEANS AND MOST OF EXPORTS. THAT ASSESSMENT IS STRENGTHENED BY ABSENCE ANY INDICATIONS UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS IN NORTHEAST SOYBEAN AREAS.

5. PERHAPS OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE, ABSENCE OF EARLY FROST IN NORTHEAST PROBABLY IMPLIES NO FROST FURTHER SOUTH (NORTH CHINA) WHICH AUGURS WELL FOR AUTUMN-HARVESTED CROPS THAT AREA, MAY OF WHICH BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PLANTED LATE.

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